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THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (*a*) Yes. Under clause 3 (2) of the Madras Foodgrains (Intensive Procurement) Order 1948, the surplus once determined may be altered from time to time and the surplus re-determined either by the officer who determined it in the first instance or by any other higher authority. Whenever the surplus is re-determined under this clause, a revised 'd' list will be issued to the concerned ryot and failure to comply with it will render the person liable to prosecution.

" (*b*) Yes. If the ryot has any grievance in regard to the justice of the demand, he may look into the village procurement registers 'A' and 'B' which show the yield the requirements and the surplus and satisfy himself about the reasonableness of the surplus demanded of him. If he is still not satisfied and feels that the demand is unjust, he may appeal to the Taluk Supply Officer concerned."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Who redetermines this surplus in the case of the ryots ? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" On information received, the Procurement Officer goes and verifies the stocks and when he finds some surplus over and above the first supply given to the Government, he decides the second list."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" When the surplus lists are scrutinised by the higher revenue officials, how would the surplus go on changing except for the fact that a particular village has to supply a certain quantity and that quantity must be somehow got from some ryots leaving out the other ryots? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" When once the list is made out, it is sometimes found that either the first list has not been properly made or something is left out or some stock has been hidden. These are found out later on and that is why there is the necessity for us to have a second revised list."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether this redetermination of surplus happens only in the case of smaller ryots ? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Not necessarily so, Sir."

Article under 'Sidelights' published in the " Swatantra " of 5th November 1949.

* 59 *Q.*—SRI N. SANKARA REDDI (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao) : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have perused the article " Sidelight " published in the *Swatantra* of November 5th, 1949 at page 8—beginning with the sentence " After the Radium Scandal, the Secretariat Scandal ";

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(*b*) whether the Government have caused any investigation to be made in respect of the alleged scandals and if so, to lay on the table of the House the reports of the authorities concerned; and

(*c*) if not, what the true facts relating to the alleged scandals are?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—" (*a*) The article has been brought to the notice of the Government.

" (*b*) There was no 'Secretariat scandal' and no investigation was therefore necessary.

" (*c*) The true facts of the case are—The Government published advertisements in the newspapers calling for tenders for the purchase of some of their condemned vehicles including this Chevrolet Delivery Van M.S.C. 4768. No tender was received for this van. Then the Assistant Secretary in question offered Rs. 500 for it. This was on the 13th August 1949. With a view to ascertaining whether higher offers would be forthcoming the sale of the van was again advertised in the *Hindu* and *Mail* in two consecutive issues. In a letter, dated 23rd August 1949 received by the Chief Secretary to the Government on the 24th August 1949, the proprietor of a firm in Egmore offered Rs. 500. But this was not accompanied with a deposit fee of Rs. 100 as required in the advertisements, nor did it comply with other conditions specified in the advertisements. This was not therefore a valid tender. It was however decided to consider his application at the proper time. The Provincial Motor Transport Controller was then consulted by the Government regarding the value of the vehicle and he reported that the offer of Rs. 500 for it might be accepted. An enquiry was made on the 21st September whether the proprietor of the Egmore firm would be prepared to take delivery of the van and pay the price immediately in case the Government decided to sell it to him. On receiving his affirmative reply the Government considered both the applications. They decided to sell the van to the Assistant Secretary as his offer was the first. There was nothing wrong or improper in the Government choosing to sell the van to him. There was nothing shady or suspicious in the transaction. There was no loss to the Government and it can definitely be stated that the purchase by the Assistant Secretary was not effected under any circumstance involving fraud or abuse of official position. Some days after buying the van the purchaser seems to have decided to sell it as it would not be useful for his purpose. The Government are not concerned with this or the rest of the story. It may, however, be mentioned that the proprietor of the firm in Egmore has sent a lawyer's notice to the Government accusing them of breach of contract, etc., and he has been informed that his claim is unsustainable."

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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether the Government had taken any steps against the paper which has published such a report without basis? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I wish we had some power to curb such mischievous papers."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, the article in question was published on the 5th November. Is it not fair in the interests of the officer concerned, that the Government should have issued a Press Communique, without waiting till this question was put and answered on the floor of the House, as such scandals gain strength when they are not contradicted in time? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We do not think it worthwhile to contradict all scandals published in that particular paper."

Radium needles used in the Barnard Institute of Radiology.

* 60 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government ordered a special enquiry into the working of the Government General Hospital, Madras, last year;

(*b*) whether the working of the Barnard Institute of Radiology formed part of the enquiry;

(*c*) whether the findings of the enquiry were embodied in a Press Note and issued sometime ago, and if so, what the Press Note is;

(*d*) whether the quantity of Radium needles used in the Barnard Institute of Radiology formed the subject of the enquiry, and if so, what the findings are in this regard;

(*e*) whether all or any of the Radium needles used or ordered were found to be of sub-medium quality;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the use of sub-medium quality needles is injurious, and if so, whether their use has been stopped;

(*g*) what steps have been taken to replace the sub-medium quality needles by needles of the standard quality?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) In 1948 the Hon. Minister Dr. T. S. S. Rajan was requested by the Hon. the Premier to enquire into certain complaints received about the working of the hospital.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) Yes; copies of the Press Notes [a] issued in that connexion are laid on the table.

" (*d*) No.

" (*e*) The needles ordered recently from America have been tested for the even distribution of Radium Sulphate inside them. Two hundred and eighty-six needles out of 315 received from the American Company are not up to the specifications stipulated in the contract.

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 676–677 infra.